CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorised person is prohibited by law.

SECRET

COUNTRY	USSR (Baltic)	REPORT				
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels Sighted in the	DATE DISTR.		24	1955	
	Gulf of Finland	NO. OF PAGES	•	2		
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD			25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERÊNCES				
[This is UNEVALUATED Information					
	THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TEN				25X1	-

1. At 1225 on 29 June 1954, a Soviet cruiser of the SVERDLOV Class with a two-digit figure on the bow was sighted near N 59-29, E 23-18-30 moving at a speed of about 15 knots. At 1300, a minesweeper towing a target several times as large as the sweeper was observed leaving TallimBay on an easterly course. Firing practice began at 1440 in the area about N 59-33, E 23-40. Two firing periods, each comprising three salvo groups of ten rounds, each were observed and the reports heard. The smoke clouds seemed to indicate that each salvo group was fired from two gun turrets, probably triple turrets. Except for light bluish-white clouds, almost no smoke was observed from the firing guns. The first firing series began on an easterly approach and proceeded as follows:

First salvo group: Ten salvoes fired from two turrets, at salvo intervals of

five seconds. The interval between two salvo groups was five minutes.

Second salvo group: Ten salvoes fired from another two turrets, at salvo in-

tervals of five or six seconds (irregular).

Third salvo group: Ten salvoes, probably also fired from two turrets; very

irregular salvo intervals ranging from eight to ten seconds.

- 2. The second firing series, also on an easterly course, started at 1525 hours. The same number of salvo groups was fired at the same intervals as in the first series. Some other firing runs, possibly on opposite courses, were made which were not observed because the practice area was too far away. At about 1500, while the target practice was being carried out, a large light-gray ultra-modern destroyer with two smokestacks was sighted in the direction of Tallinn Bay. It followed the cruiser at a great distance. The destroyer apparently did not fire on the target.
- 3. At about 1015 on 9 July, a minesweeper towing a target of about the same size as the one seen on 29 June was sighted proceeding on a westerly course a little southeast of Naissaar Island (N 59-30, E 24-25). At 1100, reports from heavy guns were heard at a great distance. Between 1100 and 1200, firing of salvo groups was

SECRE

STATE	х	ARMY	х	NAVY	#x	AIR	#2	FBI	AEC			
A10-F 141 11	1 M,			***** #* 4.8	A1.4 40 A2	4- ###					_	

SECRET		

-2-

25X1

heard at intervals of five seconds, probably from the same cruiser observed on 29 June, as both the loudness and the salvo intervals were similar to those heard at that time.

- At 0950 on 9 July, a group of six minesweepers was sighted coming from Porkkala and proceeding in close line formation at slow speed. The sweepers, excepting the rear vessel, had a single stack, one mast and were painted gray. A black or dark green band was painted around the smokestack. The rear vessel of the group was the only two-stacker. It appeared to be a large guard vessel rather than a minesweeper. The group assembled at N 59-50-42, E 24-25, proceeding two by two abeam joining the van group. The division proceeded in an easterly direction with the sweeping equipment out and interconnected.
- 5. At 1015 on 9 July, a large submarine was sighted on an easterly course near 25X1 Naissaar Island. The submarine, which was large and long, carried two guns, one forward and one aft of the conning tower, At 2315 on 9 July, Soviet submarine was seen near N 58-07, E 21-07, followed by a KRONSHTADT-Class submarine chaser. Both the submarine and the submarine chaser were laboring heavily against the sea. The two vessels carried the prescribed masthead lights, side lights, and stern lights; the submarine exhibited a particularly powerful stern light.

25X1

NODEX

25X1

SECRET